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Denali Training Fund Final Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: Institute of the North		EN 796183	File 9-307
Name of Project: COYA Steering Committee Platform			
Reporting Period: 2/5/09 – 6/30/09			
Contact Person: Nils Andreassen, Dialogue Coordinator			
Contact Number: (907) 771-2448		Email Address: nandreassen@institutenorth.org	
Award Year: 2009		Award Number: 1072-C	
Original Amount Awarded: \$20,000.00		Final Expenditures: \$16,273.95 15,517.57	
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.			
Signed by: _____		Dated: _____	

1. A. In a few sentences, please describe the initial scope of your project.

The Institute of the North is facilitating the coordination of post-Conference of Young Alaskans activities, including: presentations to communities, schools, and state organizations; formation of a new steering committee; the drafting and adoption of a Pledge of Support; and, engaging delegates in applied leadership opportunities, namely, the 2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue.

B. Did you modify the scope or the budget at any time during this project? If so, please explain.

Our initial proposal was drafted with the full support of Gerry McDonagh and the scope and the budget around which we first designed the program was given a lot of flexibility. The Institute of the North has remained committed to its intent to provide young Alaskan leaders with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership. This has occurred both within the scope, and additionally in many other formats.

2. A. How many people did your original proposal intend to train?

The original proposal identified the 55 COYA delegates as those we intended to train.

B. How many people did you ultimately train? Please attach a final list of participants, their community, certification and where they are employed.

Ultimately, within the scope of the grant, we provided over 80 young Alaskans with leadership development opportunities.

C. If there is a variance between original and final, please explain.

3. Please tell us about lesson(s) learned during this project.

I think the greatest lesson is that it is very hard to quantify leadership skills attained. Both the Conference of Young Alaskans and the 2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue are excellent platforms from which tomorrow's leaders will spring. Because of the dynamic opportunities and landscapes that surround close to 140 young Alaskans (outside the scope included), it is essential to empower them in ways that don't necessarily line up with traditional outcomes. At the same time, it is through the strong relationships that they formed during these events that we see applied leadership skills and effective decision-making.

4. Please provide a minimum of one success story for this project.

Attached please find a draft report of the 2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue, which had 11 attendees who were affiliated with COYA. The survey results from their participation are included.

5. Please attach a few photos with descriptive captions.

The Institute of the North's 2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue, held May 14-16 at Chena Hot Springs, brought together 80 young Alaska leaders from across the state. With the theme of *Responsibility in an Owner State: Creating a New Social Contract for Young Leaders in Alaska*, the Dialogue focused on a number of issues.

First and foremost for those attending was framing who we are as Alaskans. The conversation around the Owner State helped set the stage for thinking both of Alaska's diversity and Alaskans' commitment to one another. It was apparent that the Owner State concept is continuing to evolve and better include all Alaskans. In thinking of who we are, responsibility was a huge component. The group spent a lot of time looking at who they are responsible to as young leaders, and then how the state is responsible.

The breakout groups at the Dialogue worked on four subject areas, and expanded or contracted the focus depending on interest. The four themes examined were innovation and entrepreneurship; social enterprise; leadership development; and response to rural crises.

Ultimately, this Dialogue was better able to bring together and interweave the lives of those involved than any other. The community that developed over the course of the weekend was remarkable in its depth and when it came time to leave, and in the weeks after, it was noticeable how connected these young Alaska leaders had become.

Those who attended the 2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue came together for many reasons. Participants, when asked what they were expecting in attending, had many different conceptions of what they were going to experience.

- I thought that this would be a great networking opportunity/event, probably similar to other leadership groups I have been a part of. It turned out to be much more than what I've experienced in the past.
- Education & inspiration.
- See some familiar faces, meet new folks, get mentally rejuvenated, and find out what everyone is up to.
- To meet and get to know other people who are interested in the future of Alaska.
- I expected to gain more knowledge about Alaska being an owner state and how it affects us positively and negatively in peoples' opinions.
- High minded policy discussions.
- To meet new people with whom to begin a conversation on what the future looks like with all of us involved and doing our best to be our best.
- There were lots of opportunities to learn and meet interesting people.
- To meet other young leaders, feel inspired
- To make great connections with influential individuals across the state. To better understand issues affecting leadership in Alaska. To take part in an important dialogue that may contribute to improving the process of identifying and cultivating future leaders.
- Learn of challenges facing people in other parts of the State to better form a full State picture.

The outcomes from the event, however, went way beyond what attendees were expecting.

- These discussions should be ongoing and that we continue to outreach to rural Alaska.
- I was inspired. I will now take over the corner of my world.
- I have a deeper understanding of what it means to be a leader, and the diverse situations we draw ourselves from to step up and accept responsibility.
- I liked learning about the social enterprise concept.

- I learned a lot about how young smart people are thinking about this state and its problems. I will definitely use that to refine my views and move forward to try to shape a better state.
- I learned a million new things that are already being applied in multiple aspects of my personal and professional lives.
- It was a great first step for me in this new journey. It began a process of discovering what leadership means to me and how I can play a part in our owner state.
- I learned that there are more people in Alaska with the same concerns that I imagined. It makes me feel better knowing that so many dedicated leaders care about the future of Alaska
- I got a better understanding of Alaska politics, history and culture.
- I will seek more perspectives on the things we talked about to help me form my own thoughts and ideas around the things we discussed.
- I learned a lot about renewable energy that I hadn't known before. I learned that no matter what your politics are and where you come from, many of us want to be able to engage with one another in a non-confrontational manner that moves us forward instead of placing barriers between us.
- I met some very dynamic and vibrant leaders in Alaska. I learned that there are a lot of people who are uncomfortable with the Owner State terminology. The semantics discussions were important, so that we can correct our language to reflect a more accurate depiction of our common vision for the people of this state.
- I will blog about and talk about the things I learned.
- I learned that there are a lot of people who want to make Alaska a great state. There are a lot of great programs, projects and jobs for young people to get involved in to do that. I will encourage more people to get involved and spread the word. Also, keep in touch with everyone I met and continue to meet others at events like this.
- I came away knowing that there was/is a need for rural Alaska input and guidance. We really lacked that.
- I have been trying to inspire people to take a more active role in their state. I spoke a lot about social enterprise afterwards; I took away a lot and a lot of great connections.
- I was sincerely inspired. I tell people that I have never been around such a large group where everyone was consistently kind, smart, motivated and interesting.
- I can't leave Alaska, like I was considering. There's more opportunity for me to use my talents to make my community and state a better place here, it's like no where else.
- The concept of an owner state really sunk in, the corresponding obligations of the people to the state. I think the best thing I got from it was tolerance, respect, compassion, empathy, understanding and the power of listening and observing. Alaska is an enormous melting pot of people and we all come to the table with different baggage, ideas and perspectives. To be able to lead such a diverse group of people takes more than the power to stand up in front of a crowd, look pretty and recite some pat phrases. It takes time. The willingness to spend time with all these people, to hear what they have to say and to consider their words, to take to heart where they're coming from and where they hope to go, to value every individual and every experience on its own merit and to respect its difference from my own, to realize that I don't have all the answers and that I can never hope to have them without the help of everyone at the table.
- I was really impressed with the idea of social entrepreneurs. Developing a business based around how it helps the environment and society was a real eye-opener.
- That I belong to Alaska. That there were lots and lots of very cool people doing amazing things in Alaska, but that some people were spending way too much time looking to be recognized and mentored just for being young and smart, instead of doing things because they believe they are important and no one else is doing them. I believe in mentoring, but I also believe that if you're looking so hard for recognition, you're probably not a real leader and that everyone isn't a "leader" and doesn't need to be. I really liked what Guy Peters said about being tapped by his elders because they had been watching him- he did what needed to be done because he saw a gap and so he did

something about it, then he was asked to do more. That to me is a great example of a leader in action.

- So much appreciation for living in Alaska, for getting this chance (lifetime opportunity) of becoming Alaskan, get to know great and bright people, becoming a part of a great loving family...so hard to find our days. It is really one big family. What sticks with me every time after every dialogue is Alaska's uniqueness and thoughts of what we can do to make it even better place. I am always telling all my friends to go to one of the dialogues if they will get an opportunity, even brought some of them with me already.

- The concept of being responsible for things rather than owning them really hit home. I shared that with a few people.

- The willingness of younger leaders to work together to accomplish great things for Alaska.

- I truly appreciated the respectful and fearless dialogue-- I was excited to be a part of such an important ongoing discussion. I felt all perspectives were welcomed and reflected upon (generally speaking) and as an Alaska Native person, I felt incredibly optimistic about the future of our cultures (the understanding of and respect for) in the hands of these bright future leaders.

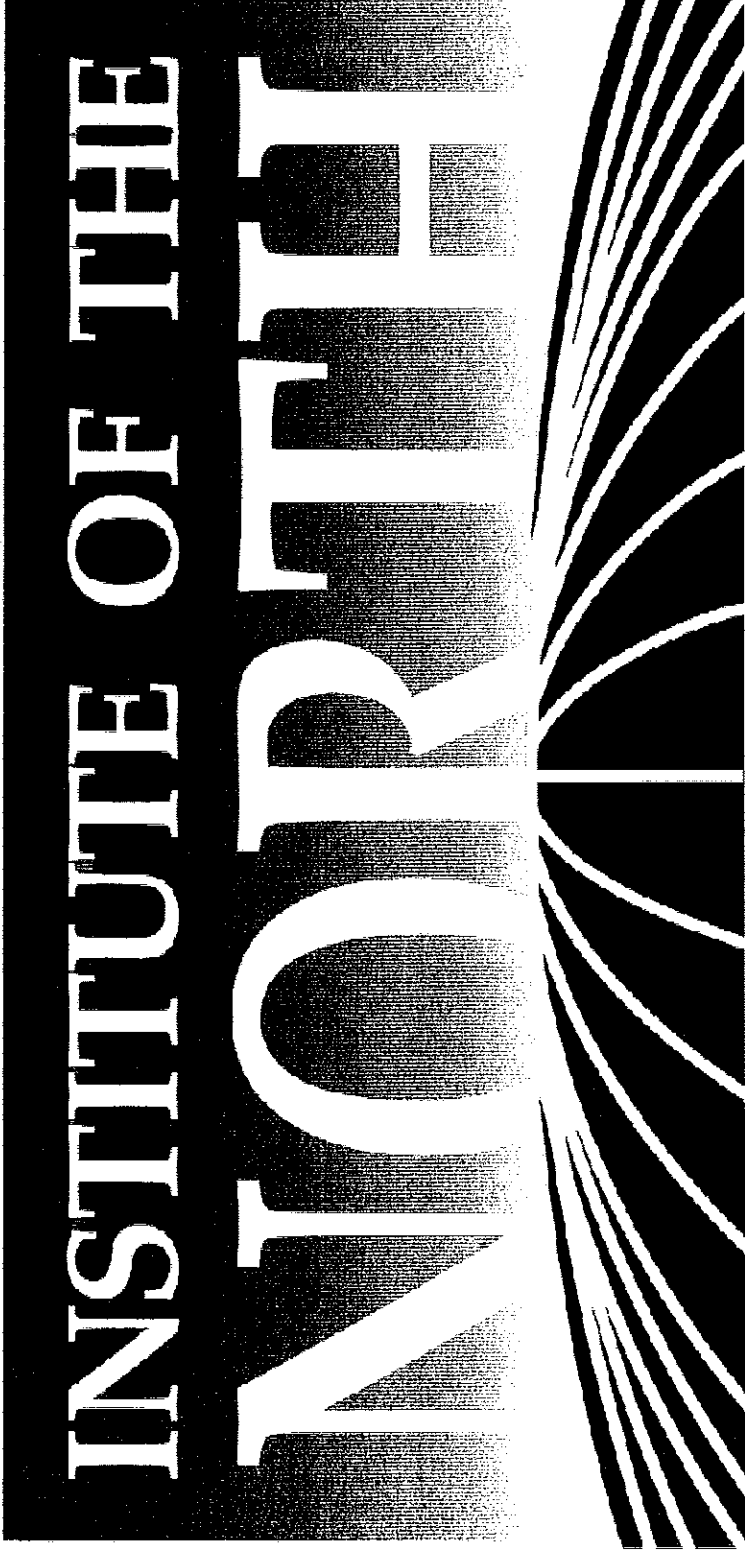
- I take away the valuable perspectives from each individual and take away new relationships with people I hadn't met or really would have got to know without events like this.

- Well, I always feel better about Alaska's future when I leave these, the quality and talent of the professionals attending is astounding to say the least. My most poignant take away is that the SOA has to do a better job of forming relationships and collaborating with non-profits and native organizations. You can easily get bogged down in the day to do but reaching out to others can be incredibly valuable.

- It was really nice to meet other people close to my age that are in the same place in life that I am. Young professionals that have a lot of responsibility and are very committed to helping give direction to Alaska's future.

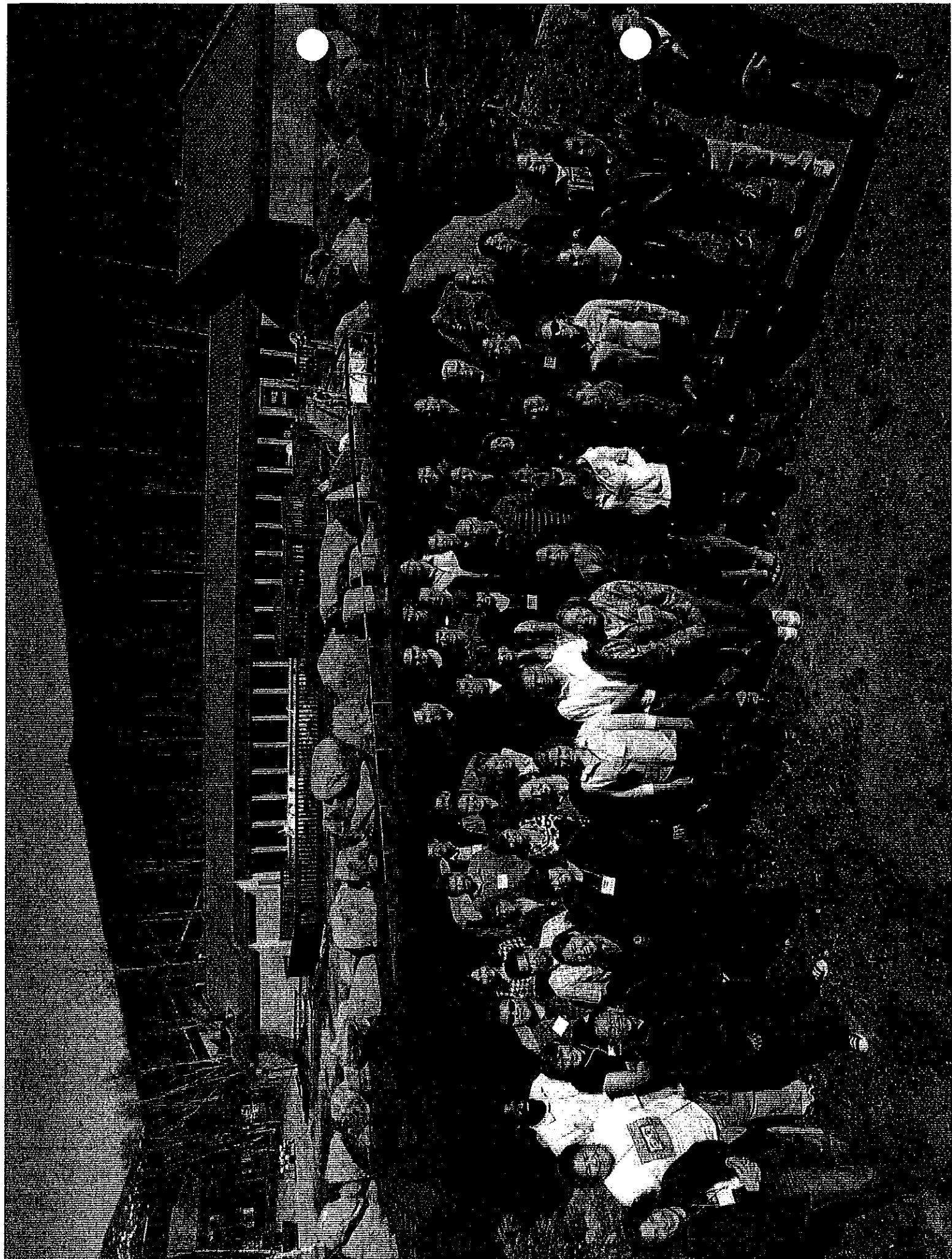
2009 Emerging Leaders Dialogue
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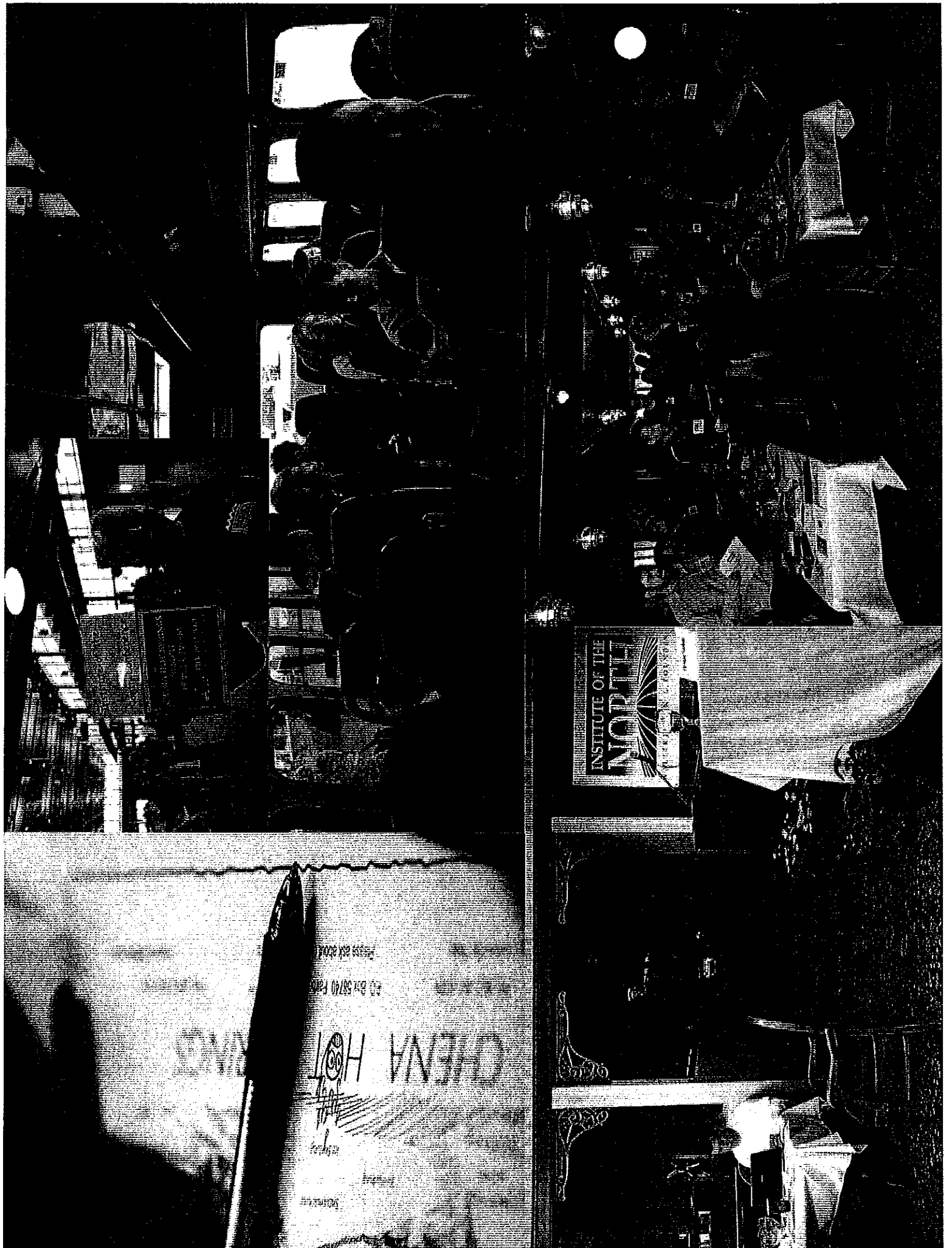
Creating a Social Contract for Young Leaders in Alaska

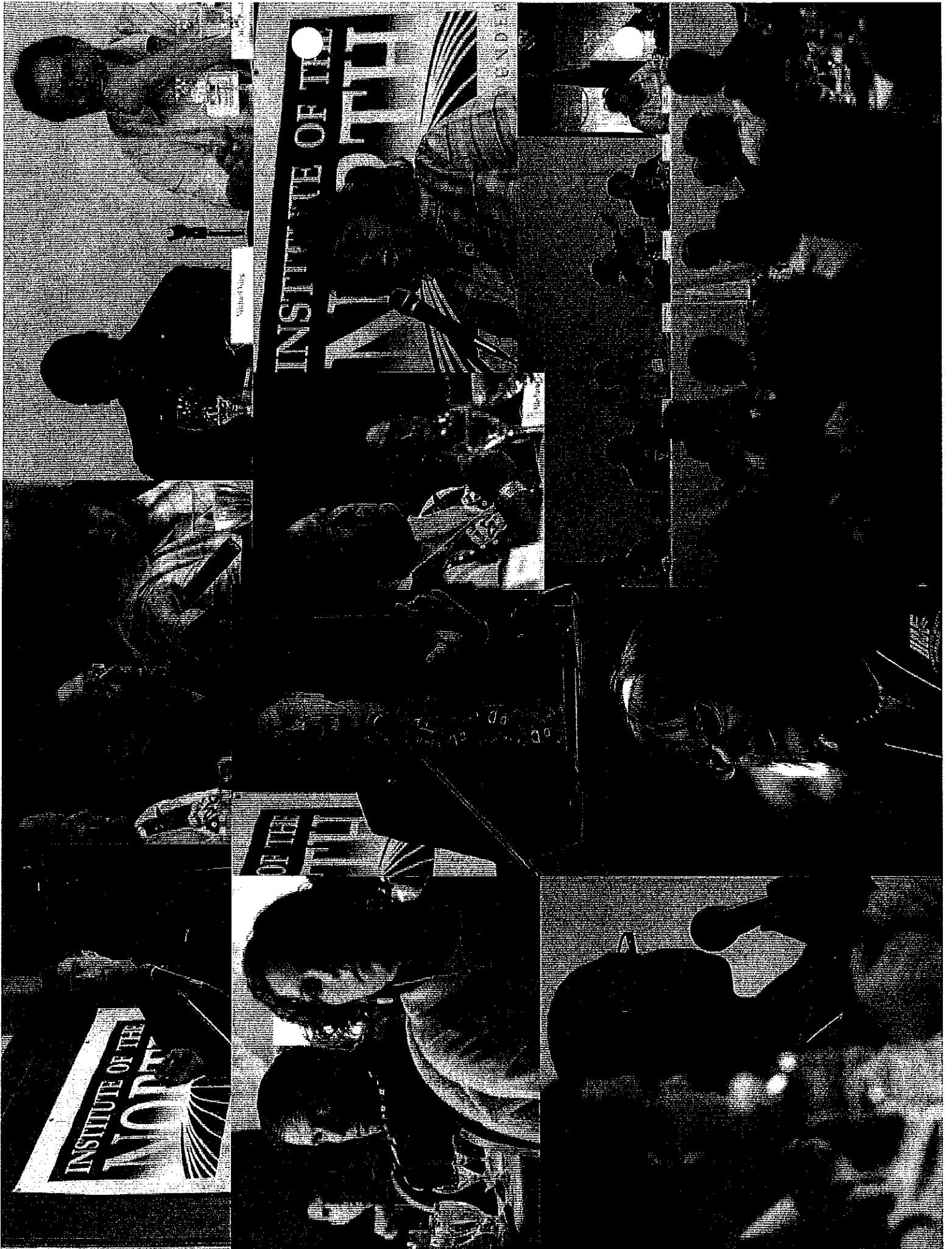


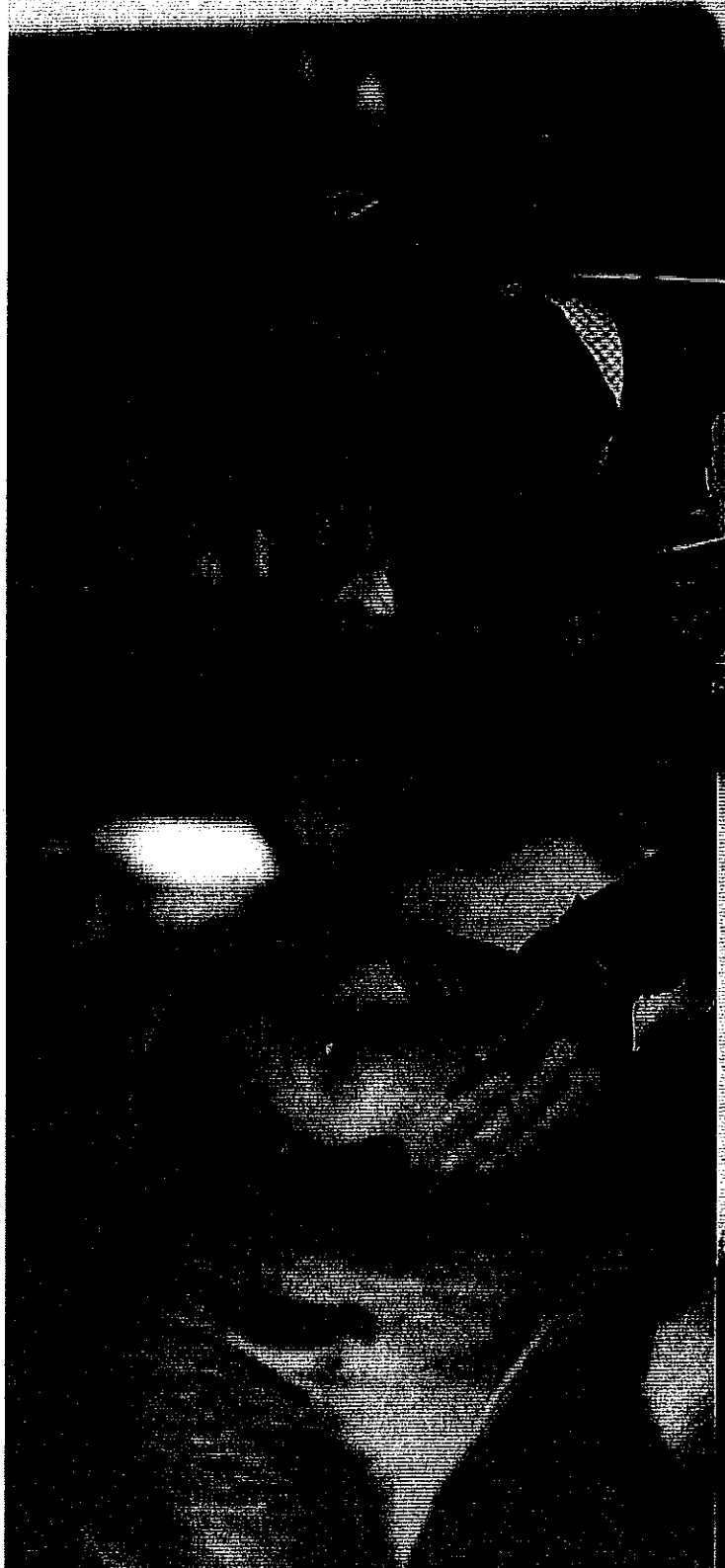
WALTER J. HICKEL, FOUNDER

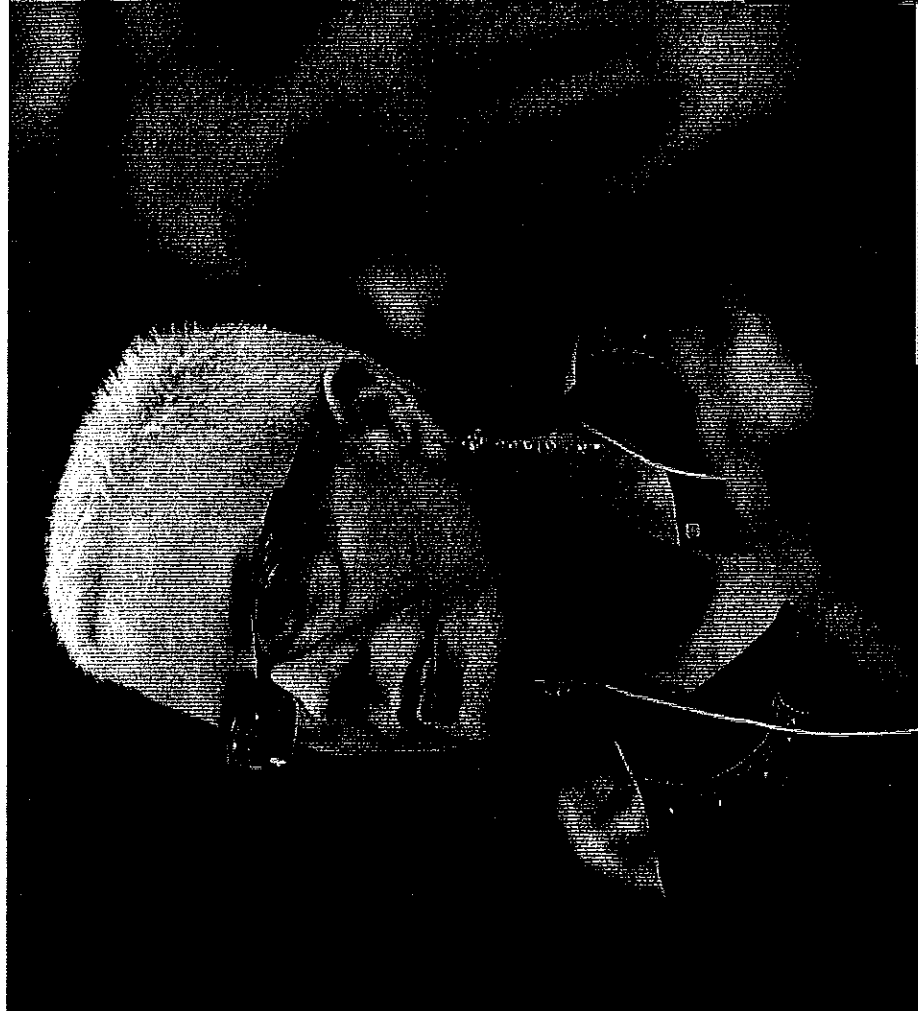
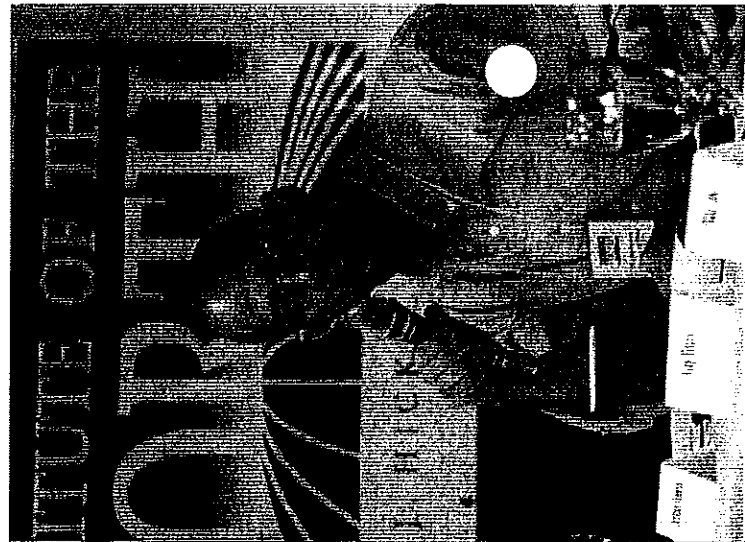
May 14-16, 2009
Chena Hot Springs Resort



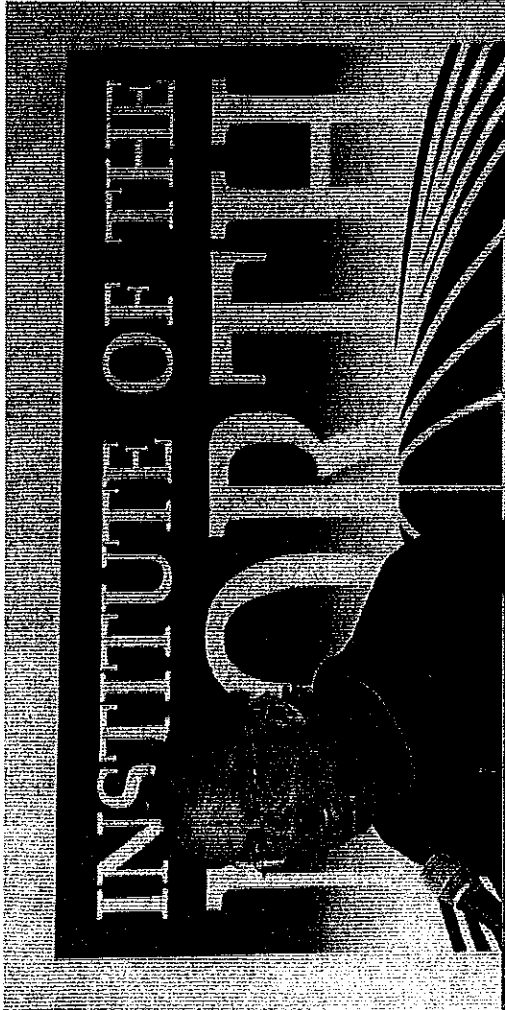
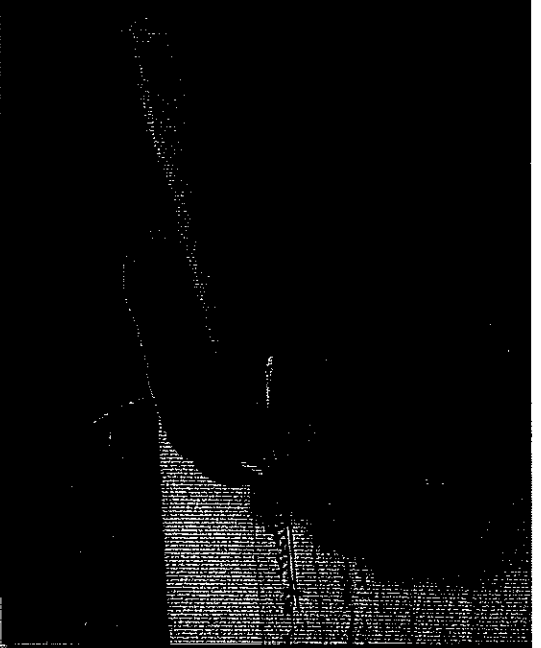


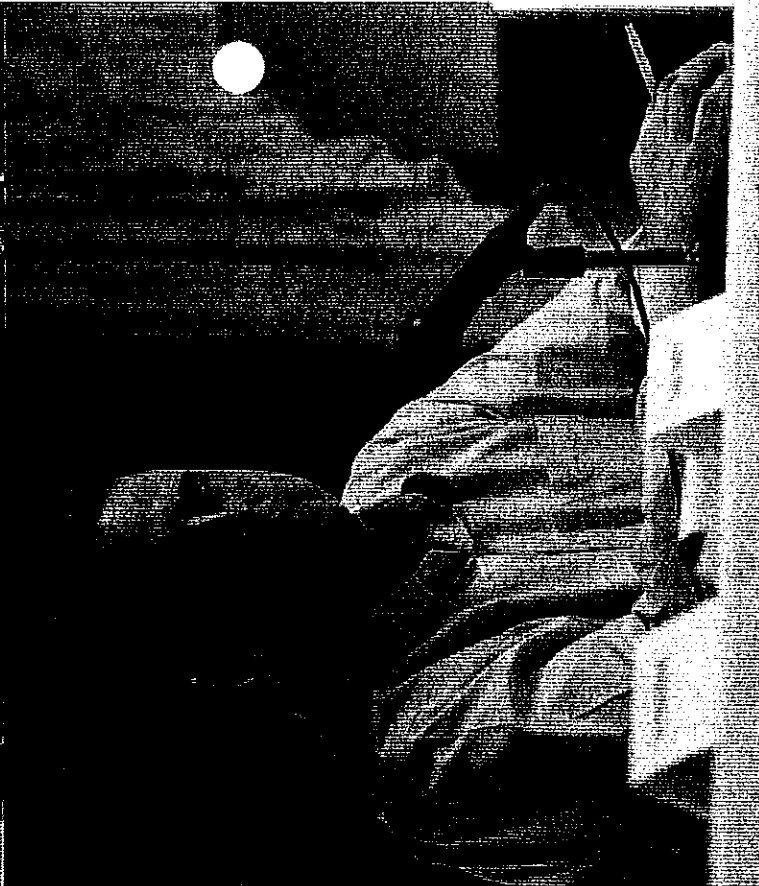
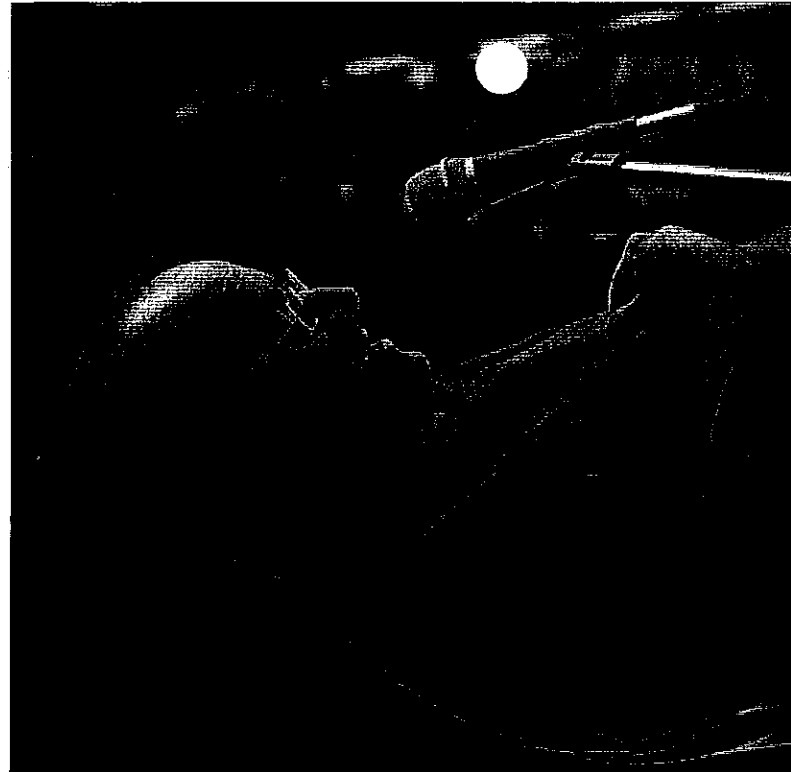




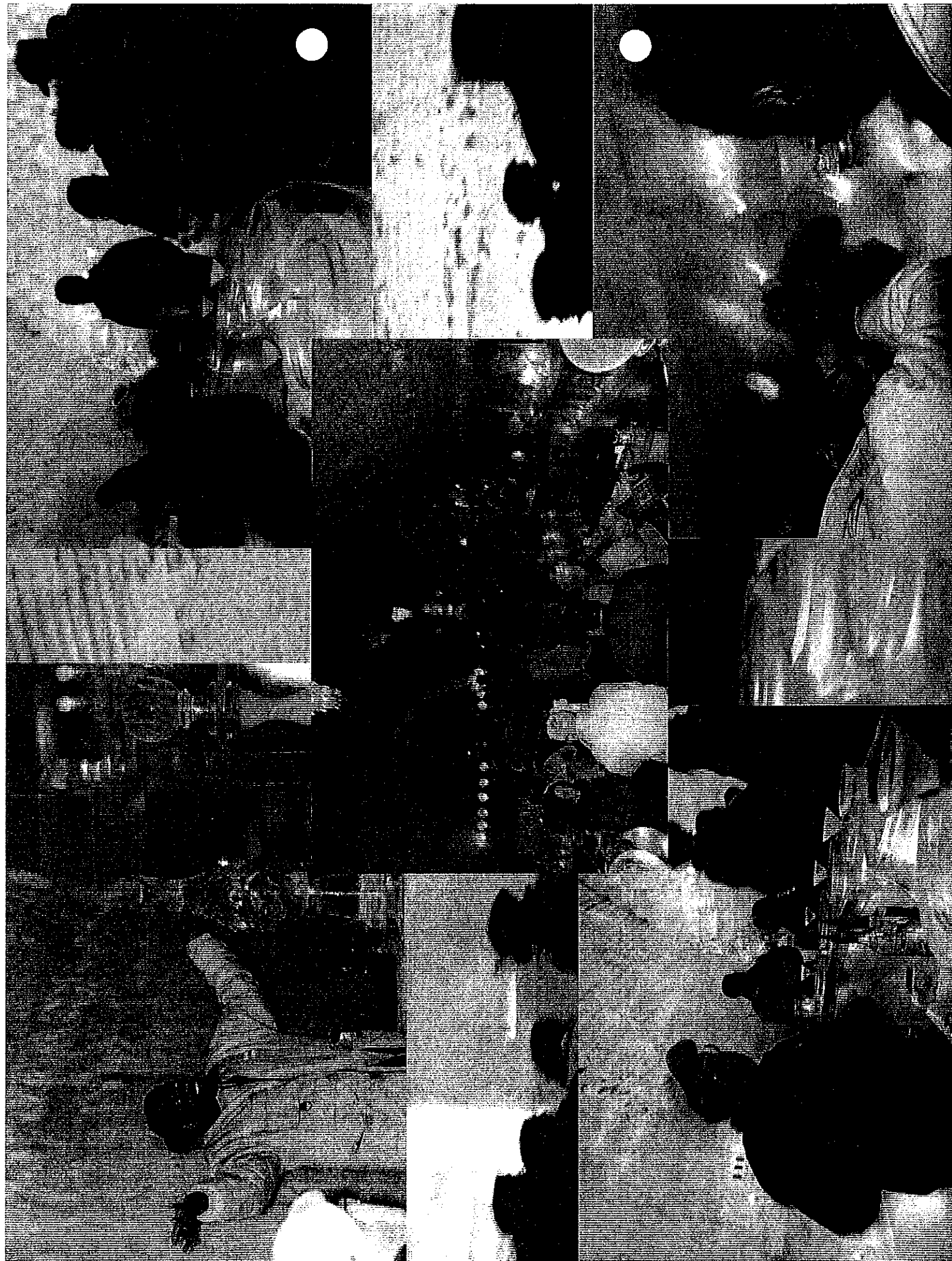


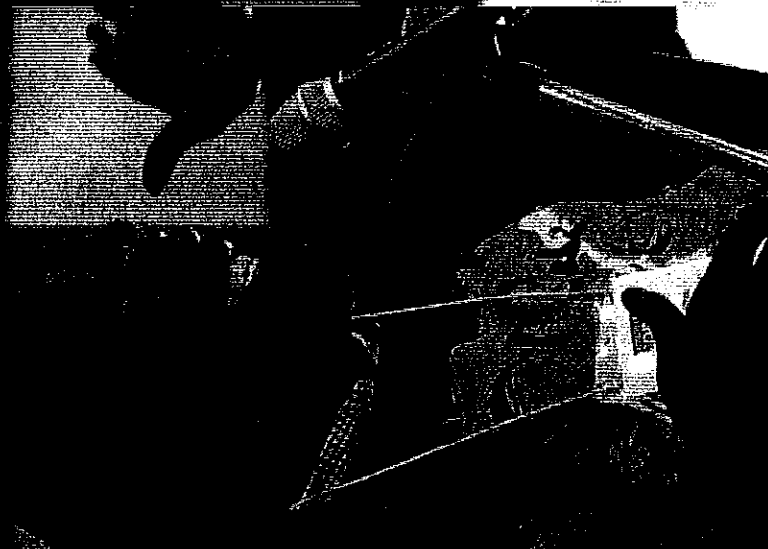
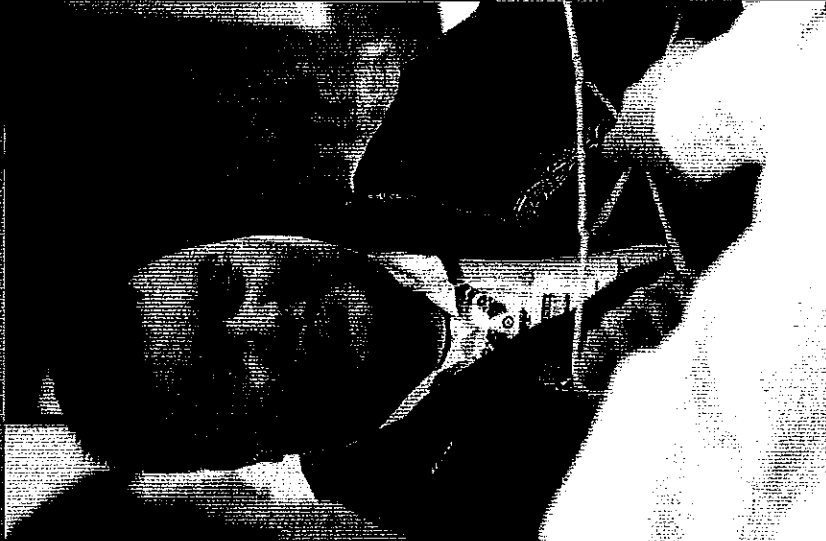


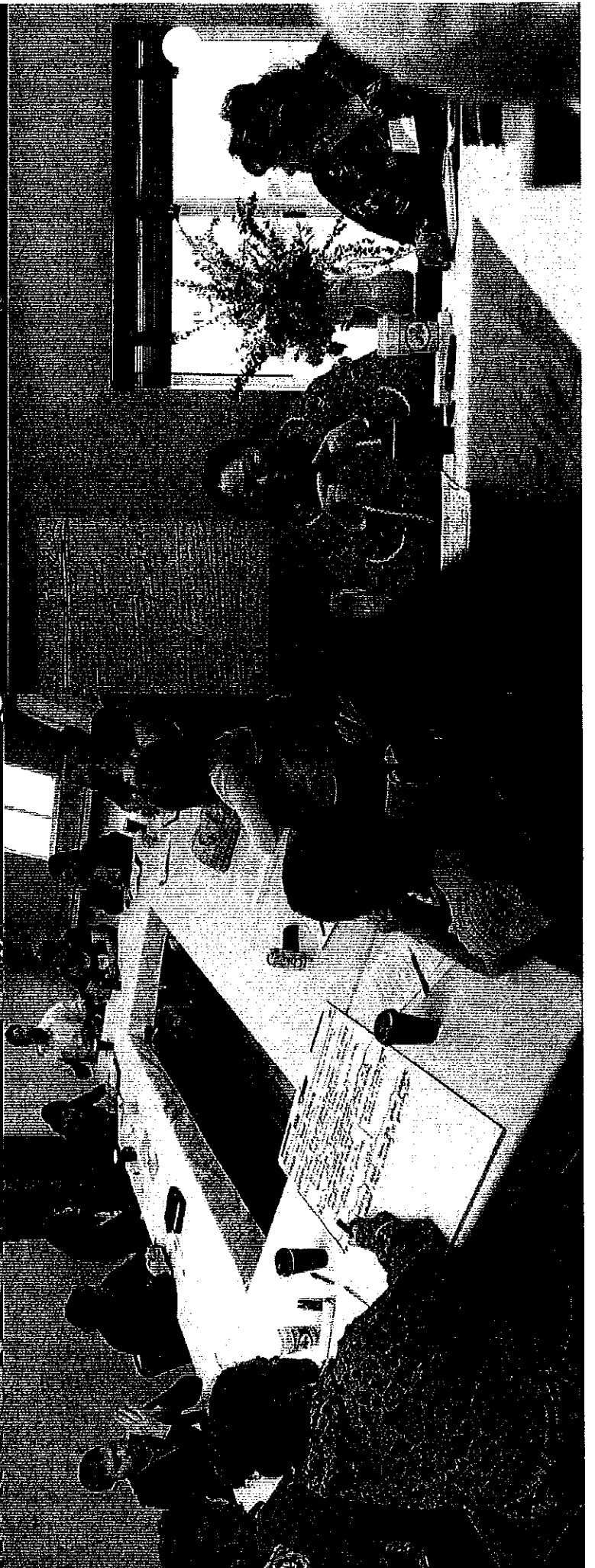


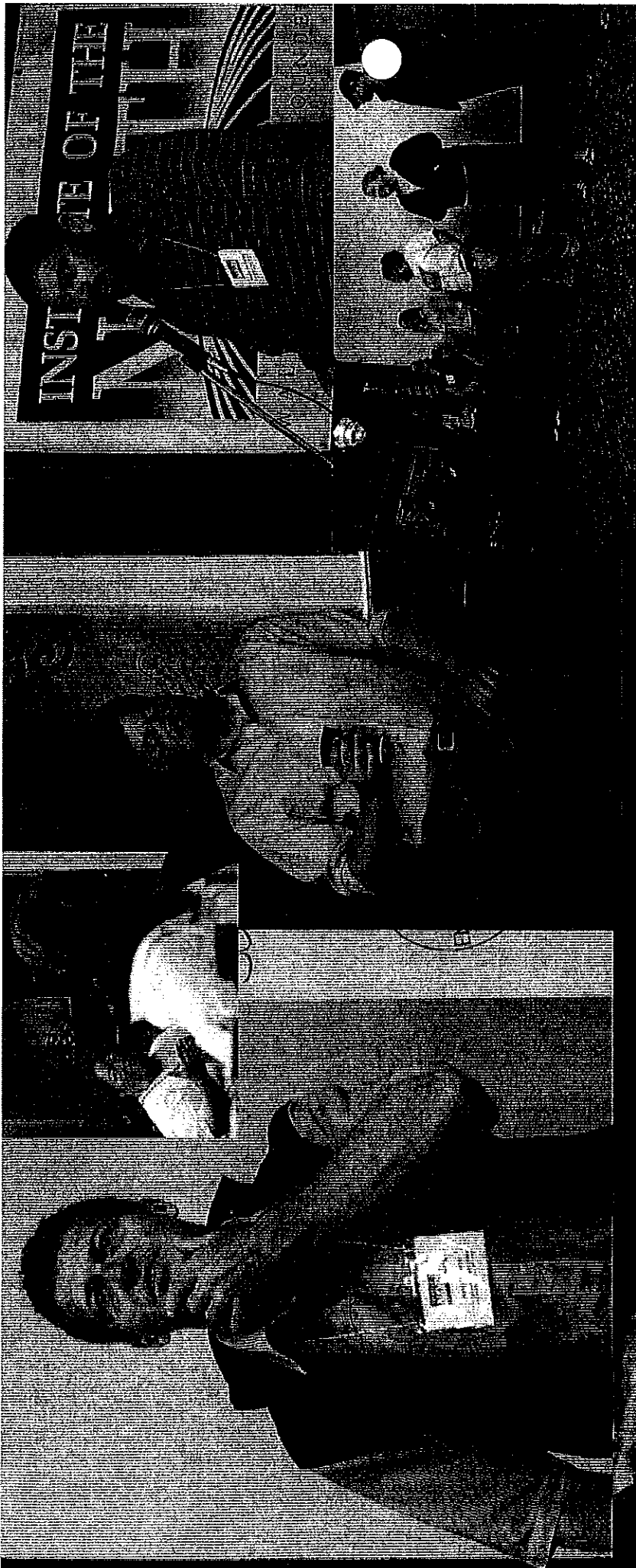




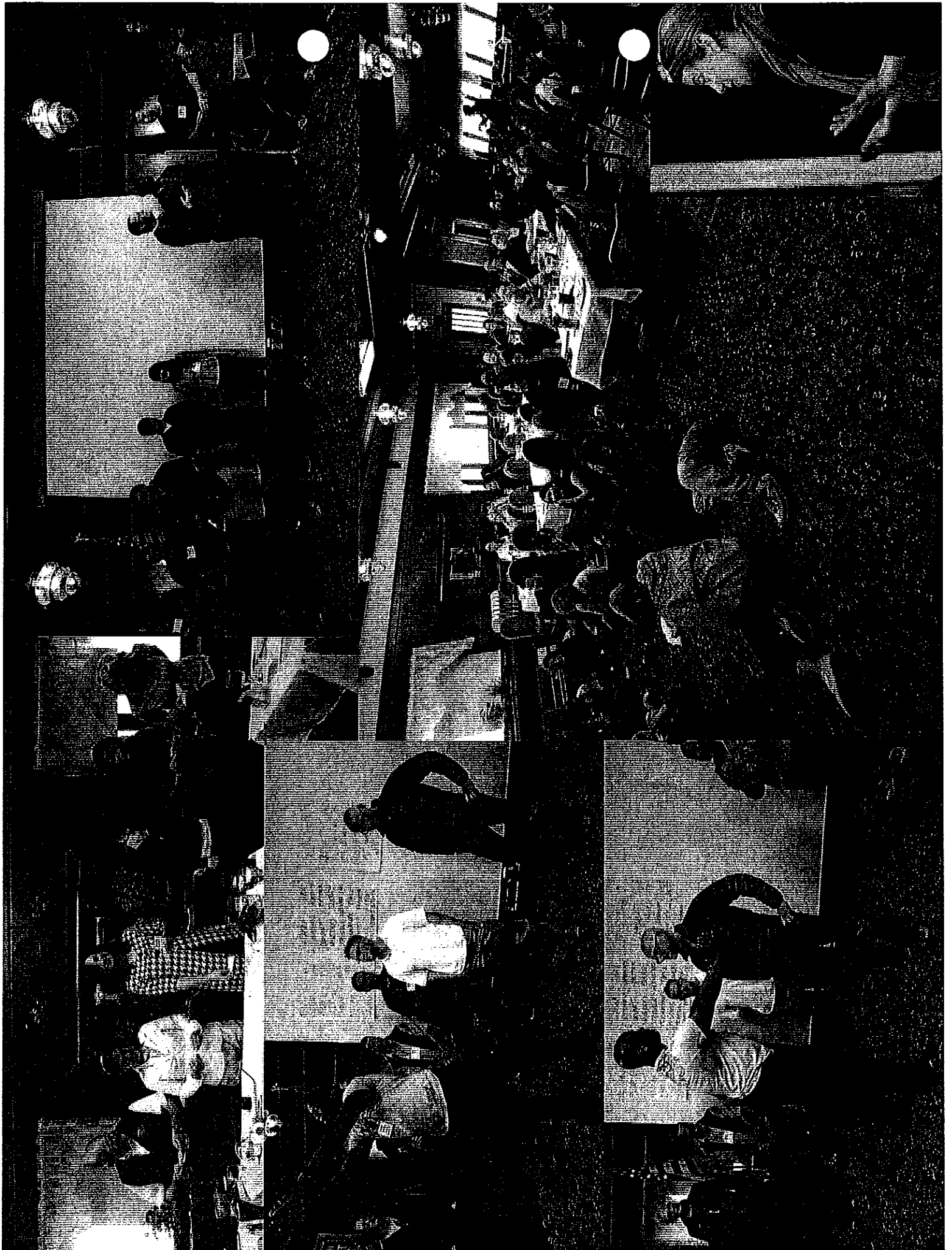




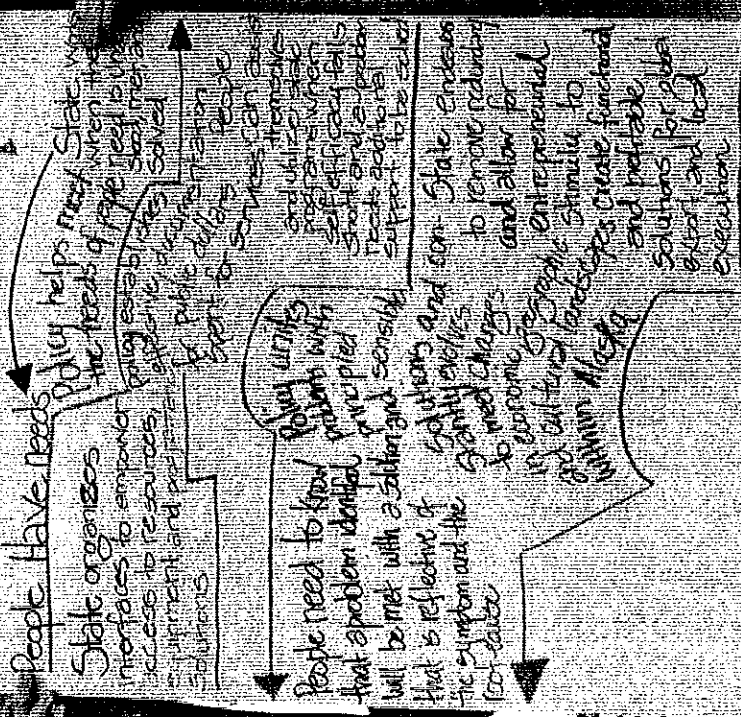




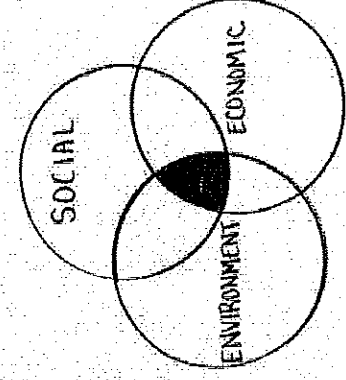




Mind The Gap



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



- MISSION DRIVEN -

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HADDA HALL
UNEMPLOYMENT HUNGRY
SERVANT BETTER
WAVERRICKY ENERGY
STRUGGLE BERNIE KIL
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MAKE MONEY GRACE

WES
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